WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image storage apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving images stored in a storage medium;

storage means for storing the images received through said receiving means from said storage medium;

thumbnail image generating means for generating thumbnail images of a predetermined size for managing the images stored in said storage means;

copy instruction means for giving an instruction to copy the images stored in said storage medium into said storage means; and

control means for executing a control in such a manner as to receive the images from said storage medium through said receiving means and copy the images stored in said storage medium into said storage means without generating any thumbnail images by said thumbnail image generating means, when said copy instruction means gives the instruction to copy the images in said storage medium into said storage means.

2.   An image storage apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising erasing means for erasing images from said storage medium after the images in said storage medium are copied into said storage means.

3.   An image storage apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for displaying images

stored in said storage means.

4. An image storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copy instruction means has a switch that can be operated by a user, and when said switch is operated, said copy instruction means outputs a signal indicative of the copy instruction to said control means.

5. An image storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copy instruction means comprises a remote control unit having a copy instruction button, and when said button is operated, said copy instruction means outputs a signal indicative of the copy instruction to said control means.

6. An image storage apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving images and thumbnail images for managing said images stored in a storage medium;

storage means for storing the images and the thumbnail images received through said receiving means from said storage medium;

thumbnail image generating means for generating thumbnail images of a predetermined size;

thumbnail image size detecting means for detecting a size of the thumbnail images stored in said storage medium;

copy instruction means for giving an instruction to copy the images stored in said storage medium to said storage means; and

control means for executing a control in such a
manner as to receive the images from said storage medium
through said receiving means and copy the images stored
in said storage medium to said storage means when said
copy instruction means gives the instruction to copy the
images in said storage medium into said storage means;
and

wherein if the size of the thumbnail images in said
storage medium corresponds to said predetermined size,
said control means executes a control in such a manner as
to receive the thumbnail images from said storage medium
through said receiving means and copy the received
thumbnail images into said storage means as management
thumbnail images for the images copied into said storage
means.

7. An image storage apparatus according to claim 6,
wherein if the size of the thumbnail images stored in
said storage medium is different from said predetermined
size, said control means executes a control in such a
manner as to generate thumbnail images of the
predetermined size corrsponding to the images copied into
said storage means by said thumbnail image generating.
means and store the generated thumbnail images as said
management thumbnail images in said storage means.

8. An image storage apparatus according to claim 7,
further comprising display means for displaying the
images stored in said storage means and the thumbnail

images of the predetermined size.

9. An image storage apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said copy instruction means has a switch that can be operated by a user, and when said switch is operated, said copy instruction means outputs a signal indicative of the copy instruction to said control means.

10. An image storage apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said copy instruction means comprises a remote control unit having a copy instruction button, and when said button is operated, said copy instruction means outputs a signal indicative of the copy instruction to said control means.

11. An image storage apparatus comprising:

storage means containing at least images;

thumbnail image detecting means for detecting whether thumbnail images of a predetermined size are stored in said storage means;

thumbnail image generating means for generating thumbnail images of the predetermined size; and

control means for executing a control in such a manner as to store again, in said storage means, the thumbnail images of the predetermined size stored in said storage means as thumbnail images for managing the images stored in said storage means.

12. An image storage apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if said storage means does not contain any thumbnail images of the predetermined size, said control

means executes a control in such a manner as to generate thumbnail images of the predetermined size corresponding to the images stored in said storage means by said thumbnail image generating means and store, in said storage means, the generated thumbnail images as thumbnail images for managing the images stored in said storage means.

13. An image storage apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

display means for displaying the images stored in said storage means and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size.

14. An image storage apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving images and thumbnail images stored in a storage medium from said storage medium;

thumbnail image size detecting means for detecting a size of thumbnail images in said storage medium;

thumbnail image generating means for generating thumbnail images of a predetermined size corresponding to the images received from said storage medium through said receiving means;

display means for displaying said images and said thumbnail images; and

display control means for executing a control in such a manner as to display said images and said thumbnail images on said display means; and

wherein if the size of the thumbnail images in said storage medium corresponds to said predetermined size, said display control means executes a control in such a manner as to display, on said display means, the

5 thumbnail images received from said storage medium through said receiving means, and if the size of the thumbnail images in said storage medium is different from said predetermined size, said display control means executes a control in such a manner as to generate

10 thumbnail images of the predetermined size by said thumbnail image generating means and display the generated thumbnail images of the predetermined size on said display means.

15. An image storage apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

storage means for containing the images received from said storage medium and the thumbnail images of the

5 predetermined size;

designating means for designating the thumbnail images of the predetermined size displayed on said display means;

storage control means for executing a control to

10 receive images corresponding to the thumbnail images designated by said designating means from said storage means through said receiving means and store, in said storage means, the received images and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size corresponding to the

received images.

16. An image storage method comprising the steps of:

generating thumbnail images for managing images inputted from a storage medium when said images are inputted from said storage medium;

giving an instruction to copy the images in said storage medium into storage means;

executing a control in such a manner as to receive the images from said storage medium and copy the received images into said storage means without generating the thumbnail images when said instruction is given.

17. An image storage method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

erasing the images from said storage medium after receiving the images in said storage medium and copying the received images into said storage means.

18. An image storage method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

displaying the images copied into said storage means.

19. An image storage method comprising the steps of:

receiving images and thumbnail images stored in a storage medium from said storage medium;

detecting a size of the thumbnail images stored in the storage medium;

executing a control in such a manner as to copy the received images in the storage medium into storage means; and

5   if the size of the thumbnail images in the storage medium corresponds to a predetermined size, executing a control in such a manner as to receive the thumbnail images from the storage medium and copy the received thumbnail images into the storage means as thumbnail images for managing the images copied into the storage

10   means.

20. An image storage apparatus according to claim 19, wherein if the size of the thumbnail images stored in said storage medium is different from said predetermined size, a control is executed in such a manner as to

5   generate thumbnail images of the predetermined size corresponding to the images copied into said storage means and store the generated thumbnail images as said management thumbnail images in said storage means.

21. An image storage apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising the step of displaying, on display means, the images stored in said storage means and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size.

22. An image storage method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether thumbnail images of a predetermined size are stored in storage means containing

5   at least images; and

if the thumbnail images of said predetermined size
are stored in said storage means, executing a control in
such a manner as to store again, in said storage means,
the thumbnail images of the predetermined size stored in
said storage means as thumbnail images for managing the
images stored in said storage means.

23. An image storage method according to claim 22,
wherein if said storage means does not contain any
thumbnail images of the predetermined size, a control is
executed in such a manner as to generate thumbnail images
of the predetermined size corresponding to the images in
said storage means and store, in said storage means, the
generated thumbnail images as thumbnail images for
managing the images stored in said storage means.

24. An image storage method according to claim 25,
further comprising the step of displaying the images
stored in said storage means and the thumbnail images of
the predetermined size.

25. An image storage method comprising the steps
of:

receiving images and thumbnail images stored in a
storage medium from said storage medium;

detecting a size of the thumbnail images in said
storage medium;

executing a control in such a manner as to display,
on said display means, the thumbnail images received from
the storage medium, as thumbnail images for managing the

received images if the size of the thumbnail images in
said storage medium corresponds to a predetermined size;
and

executing a control in such a manner as to generate
thumbnail images of said predetermined size by said
thumbnail image generating means and display the
generated thumbnail images of the predetermined size on
said display means as thumnail images for managing the
received images if the size of the thumbnail images in
said storage medium is different from said predetermined
size.

26. An image storage method according to claim 25,
further comprising the steps of:

managing the received images correspondingly to the
thumbnail images of the predetermined size;

designating the thumbnail images of the
predetermined size displayed on the display means;

executing a control in such a manner as to receive
images corresponding to the designated thumbnail images
from the storage medium and store, in storage means, the
received images and the thumbnail images of the
preetermined size corresponding to the received images.

27. A storage medium which contains a program that
can be read by an information processing apparatus, the
program comprising:

an image receiving module for receiving images
stored in a storage medium for electronic film;

a thumbnail image generating module for generating thumbnail images of a predetermined size for managing the images received from said storage medium for electronic film though said image receiving module;

a copy instruction module for giving an instruction to copy the images stored in said storage medium into storage means; and

a control module for executing a control in such a manner as to copy the images stored in said storage medium for electronic film and received through the image receiving module into said storage means; and

wherein if the size of the thumbnail images in the storage medium for electronic film corresponds to said predetermined size, the control module execute a control in such a manner as to copy the thumbnail images received though the image receiving module into the storage means as thumbnail images for managing the images copied into the storage means.

28. A storage medium according to claim 27, further comprising an erasing module for erasing the images from said storage medium after the images in said storage medium are copied into said storage means.

29. An image storage apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display control module for displaying, on display means, the images copied into said storage means.

30. A storage medium containing a program that can

be read by an information processing apparatus, the

program comprising:

a receiving module for receiving images and

thumbnail images stored in a storage medium for

5   electronic film from said storage medium for electronic

film;

a thumbnail image generating module for generating

thumbnail images of a predetermined size;

a thumbnail image size detecting module for

10   detecting a size of the thumbnail images stored in said

storage medium for electronic film;

a copy instruction input module for inputting an

instruction to copy the images stored in said storage

medium for electronic film into storage means; and

15   a control module for executing a control in such a

manner as to copy the images stored in said storage

medium to said storage means through said image receiving

module when said copy instruction input module inputs the

instruction to copy the images into said storage medium

20   to said storage means; and

wherein if a size of the thumbnail images in said

storage medium for electronic film corresponds to said

predetermined size, the control module executes a control

in such a manner as to copy the received thumbnail images

25   to said storage means as management thumbnail images for

the images copied into said storage means.

31. A storage medium according to claim 30, wherein

if the size of the thumbnail images stored in said storage medium for electronic film is different from said predetermined size, said control module executes a control in such a manner as to generate thumbnail images of a predetermined size corresponding to the images copied into said storage means by said thumbnail image generating module and store the generated thumbnail images as said management thumbnail images in said storage means.

32.   A storage medium according to claim 31, further comprising display control module for displaying, on display means, the images stored in said storage means and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size.

33.   A storage medium containing a program that can be read by an information processing apparatus, the program comprising:

a thumbnail image detecting module for detecting whether thumbnail images of a predetermined size are stored in storage means containing at least images;

a thumbnail image generating module for generating thumbnail images of said predetermined size; and

a control module for executing a control in such a manner as to store again, in said storage means, the thumbnail images of the predetermined size stored in said storage means as thumbnail images for managing the images stored in said storage means, if the thumbnail images of the predetermined size are stored in said storage means.

34. A storage medium according to claim 33, wherein if said storage means does not contain any thumbnail images of the predetermined size, said control module executes a control in such a manner as to generate

5   thumbnail images of the predetermined size corresponding to the images stored in said storage means by said thumbnail image generating module and store, in said storage means, the generated thumbnail images as thumbnail images for managing the images stored in said

10   storage means.

35. A storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising a display control module for displaying, on display means, the images stored in said storage means and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size.

36. A storage medium which contains a program that may be read by an information processing apparatus, the program comprising:

an image receiving module for receiving images and

5   thumbnail images stored in a storage medium for elecgronic film from said storage medium for electronic film;

a thumbnail image size detecting module for detecting a size of the thumbnail images stored in said

10   storage medium for said electronic film;

a thumbnail image generating module for generating thumbnail images of a predetermined size corresponding to the images received from said storage medium for

electronic film through said image receiving module; and

a display control module for displaying, on display means, at least said images and said thumbnail images; and

5 wherein if the size of the thumbnail images stored in said storage medium for electronic film corresponds to said predetermined size, said display control module executes a control in such a manner as to display, on said display means, the thumbnail images received from 10 said storage medium for electronic film through said image receiving module, and if the size of the thumbnail images stored in said storage medium for electronic film is different from said predetermined size, said display control module executes a control in such a manner as to 15 generate thumbnail images of the predetermined size by said thumbnail image generating module and display the generated thumbnail images of the predetermined size on said display means.

37. A storage medium according to claim 36., further comprising:

a designating module for designating the thumbnail images of the predetermined size displayed on said 5 display means; and.

a storage control module for executing a control in such a manner as to store, in storage means, the images received from said storage medium for electronic film and the thumbnail images of the predetermined size;

wherein said storage control module receives images

corresponding to the thumbnail images designated by said

designating module from said storage medium for

electronic film through said image receiving module, and

5   stores, in said storage means, the received images and

the thumbnail images of the predetermined size

corresponding to the received images.